www.infrastructure.gov.in for comments of the stakeholders, experts, etc.

(c) and (d) This paper analyses the rationale for regulation, surveys the existing regulatory institutions with respect of their roles, scope and identifies the principles and policy options for an overarching regulatory framework-independence and autonomy; functions of the regulator and his interface with the subject Ministry, accountability of the regulator; transparency of the regulatory process; competition issues and interface with the Competition Commission; dispute resolution etc. which are basic to their institutional design.

(e) and (f) The paper has already been put on website of the Planning Commission and the Committee on Infrasturcure for public comments. Further, a meeting was convened on 25th September 2006 with the Ministries/Department concerned, regulators, academicians, industry associations and other stakeholders. After the discussion the participants have been requested to send their written comments based on which a second version of the paper would be prepared and focused discussion on the same would be held with all stakeholders, regulators, consumer groups, etc.

HDI of India

356. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of high GDP growh of 8.5 per cent in 2003-04,7.5 per cent in 2004-05, 8.4. per cent in 2005-06, 9 per cent in 2006-07, Human Development Indix of India, according to UNDP, has remained abysmally low, *i.e.* 127 out of 177 countries;

(b) whether India boasts of more than 80,000 crorepati, 260 million are BPL, and 100 million are doomed to live in *Jhopar-Patti*and thousands of farmers commit suicide; and

(c) whether according to latest NSSO survey on Consumer Expenditure, 250 million are surviving on 12 Rs, a day, and Rural India is worse off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to the Human Development

Report 2006-"Beyond Scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crises", released by the UNDP, India is placed at 126th position on Human Development Index (HDI) amongst 177 countries. The value of India's HDI has increased from 0.577 in 2000 to 0.611 in 2004 and India is placed in the 'Medium Human Development' category of countries. It is expected that with the high growth rates achieved in the last few years, value of India.s HDI would improve further and there would be an improvement in the rank.

(b) The Planning Commission do not have information on number of crorepatis. However, as per the data available with the Income Tax Department, the number of income tax assessees (individuals) with income of Rs. 10 lakh and above was 91,877 in 2004-05. As per the estimates of poverty made by the Planning Commission from the NSSO large sample survey consumer expenditure data of the 55th Round, 260.2 million people lived below the poverty line in 1999-2000. As per the Census of India, 2001, the number of people living in the slums was 42.58 million among the 640 cities and towns reporting slums. In order to address the issue of farmers suicide, rehabilitation package has been formulated for distressed farmers in 31 districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

(c) From the NSSO large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted in 2004-05 (NSS61st Round), the number of persons having consumption expenditure of Rs. 12 per day (or Rs. 360 per month) works out to 248.6 million, consisting of 226.4 million persons in the rural areas and 22.2 million persons in the urban areas.

Monitoring of service sector performance

357. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a high level group in the Planning Commission to monitor service sector performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would also consider to set up another group which could monitor the slow growth of agriculture sector; and